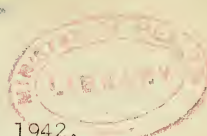


CIRENCESTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1942.



GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	5,844
Population (Census 1931) .....	7,203
(and estimated 1942) .....	12,070
Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) .....	1,886
(end of 1942) .....	2,800
Rateable Value .....	£66,000
Sum represented by a penny rate .....	£270

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	M.	F.	Total.
LIVE BIRTHS (total)	137	107	244
Legitimate	128	101	229
Illegitimate	9	6	15
Birth Rate (R.G.)	20.2		
STILL BIRTHS			
Legitimate	1	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Rate per 1,000 population	0.08		
DEATHS	71	79	150
Death Rate (R.G.)	12.4 per 1000		
Number of Women dying in, or			
in consequence of childbirth...	from sepsis		Nil
	from other causes		1
Deaths of infants under one year of age.			11
Per 1,000 births :			
Legitimate	43	Males	58
Illegitimate	66	Females	28
Total	45		
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			-
" Whooping Cough			2
" Diarrhoe (under 2 years of age)			-
" Cancer			21

The population was estimated to be at the middle of the year 12,070 persons, compared with 11,790 in 1941. The births exceeded the deaths, according to the official results, by 94 individuals. At the year end there were 2,800 inhabited houses in the area. The rateable value was £66,000 and the proceeds of a penny rate was £270.

## BIRTHS.

The births registered within the area were 207, of which 121 were males, and 86 females. According to the registrar-general the births were 244, and of these 137 were males and 107 females. The proportion of males to females was very similar in each case. There were 15 illegitimate births, the number being 9 in 1941. The birth rate was 20.2 per 1,000, in 1941 the rate was 19.2. The birth rate in England and Wales was 15.8 per 1,000, rather less in the large towns. The illegitimate birth rate was 6.1 per 1,000. The County has two maternity homes which are much used by the population of the district, one in Tetbury, about 10 miles away, the other in Cheltenham, which is 15 miles distant. Somewhere about 50 mothers from this area are treated each year at these two hospitals. The two local councils are naturally trying to have a county hospital started in Cirencester. The quarterly births were about the same in number during the first 3 quarters, but in the fourth quarter they were 15 less. Only one still birth was registered compared with 8 in 1941, a rate of 0.08 per 1,000 population. In England and Wales the rate was 0.54 per 1,000.

## CAUSES OF DEATH (Reg. General).

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Polio-Myelitis .....	1	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .....	-	-
Diphtheria .....	-	-
Whooping Cough .....	1	1
Influenza .....	-	1
Tuberculosis .....	3	1
Cancer .....	7	14
Diabetes .....	1	-
Cerebral Haemorrhage .....	4	4
Heart Disease .....	18	22
Other Circulatory Diseases ....	1	-
Bronchitis .....	4	4
Pneumonia .....	1	1
Other Respiratory Diseases ....	-	-
Gastric Ulcer .....	1	-
Digestive Diseases .....	2	1
Nephritis .....	2	3
Congenital Causes, etc.....	5	3
Senility .....	7	9
Suicide .....	-	1
Other Violence .....	2	4
Other Defined Diseases .....	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>
All causes .....	<u>71</u>	<u>79</u>

From the figures of the R.G. there are certified 150 deaths of residents, and of these 71 were males and 79 females. The number registered locally with the addition of quarterly lists of residents who died outside the district was 146. In regard to deaths at various periods, 11 were at under a year, 4 at 1 - 5 years, 4 at 5 - 25 years, 14 at 25 - 45 years, 24 at 45 - 65 years and 89 at 65 upwards. A death was due to cerebro-spinal fever, two to whooping cough, 1 to influenza and 4 to tuberculosis. Cancer caused 21 deaths compared with only 11 in 1941. The deaths for the previous 7 years averaged about 15, but there is little doubt



but that this most fatal disease is steadily increasing throughout the country, more especially where there is a high proportion of oldish folk. About 65 per cent of the deaths were at ages of 65 years upwards, and there were twice as many female deaths as there were male. One death from diabetes was certified, this disease being much less fatal than before the discovery of insulin. More deaths are due to diseases of the heart these days, this being probably due to more accurate diagnosis, and to the fact that people live longer and many die from cardiac degeneration. Only 2 deaths were caused by pneumonia, much below the average, this being largely connected with the production of new drugs. Senility caused 16 deaths, about the average, and kidney disease 5 as to 2 in 1941. One death was due to suicide, a woman, and 6 deaths were caused by injuries, one being a road accident. The general death rate was 12.4 as to 10.2 in 1941, and in 1940 it was 14.4; all per 1,000 population. In England and Wales the death rate was only 11.6, which was probably a low record. Of the total deaths 8 only occurred outside the district. In the area 108 deaths were certified of non-residents who passed away within the district whilst in 1941 no less than 144 such deaths occurred. Of the total, 71 were at the P.A. Infirmary and 19 at the Memorial Hospital.

#### INFANT MORTALITY.

On the return of the registrar-general there were 13 infant deaths, 7 males and 6 females. According to local figures only 11 deaths of infants were registered, and of these 8 were males and 3 females. These were the only infant deaths of residents that were received. The infant death rate was 45 per 1,000 live births, the rate being 50 in 1941 and 49 in England and Wales, the latter probably the lowest rate recorded. One death only was illegitimate. The infant death rate for legitimate babies was 43 and for illegitimates 66 per 1,000 births. The male rate was 58 and the female rate 28 per 1,000 births. No less than 8 deaths occurred at ages under one week, from congenital debility and premature birth, one aged a month and 2 at less than 12 months. Four deaths were due to premature birth, 4 to congenital weakness and deformity and one to whooping cough, which occurred in a general hospital. One infant died from injury at his birth. One mother died from complications of pregnancy.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Erysipelas	3
Scarlet Fever	22
Diphtheria	8
Pneumonia	7
Abortus Fever	2
Food Poisoning	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Measles	3
Whooping Cough	28
Tuberculosis	5
Anterior Polio-Myelitis	1

Scarlet Fever was more prevalent, there being 22 cases notified, as against 10 in 1941, but there were 29 in 1940. Four were under 5 years of age, 13 at school age, and 5 adults were attacked. Three cases came from one family, 2 young children in January, and the mother in May. An outbreak at a boarding school for girls started in March with 3 cases, followed by 6 in July, and another one in December. These cases always seemed to occur just before the school

broke up for holidays. Several visits were paid, but the cause was possibly a "carrier" which do occur occasionally in scarlet fever. In assistant at a nursery school took the disease, but fortunately none of the infants were infected. Three cases of erysipelas, all elderly, were reported and all three were admitted to the isolation hospital. Seven cases of pneumonia were notified, all adults, except one infant. Two patients died from the complaint. Two cases of scarlet fever were reported, one a youth attending school, the other a middle-aged woman. Both cases were specially reported to the county authorities. One dairy farm possibly affected was officially inspected by the officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, who examined all the cows, with negative results. A sample of the herd milk was sent to the bacteriologist, who after several months reported that the special germ was not found. Only 8 cases of diphtheria were reported, 2 aged under 5 years, 2 at school age and three were adult cases. In February there was one case, a young woman. A woman, who worked at a factory, was reported in May. Visits were paid to the factory and a number of contacts were swabbed but all were negative. In June one child was notified and the school visited. In November a school girl failed with the disease. In December a child aged 4 was reported and in the same month a girl who worked at the laundry. All the workers were swabbed and a few carriers were found. These were isolated until two negative swabs were obtained. On the last day of the year a middle aged woman failed with the disease, which was very severe in type. Another case occurred in the Bowling Green area, a child aged 3 years. Although no patient died from diphtheria during the year, the last two patients both died, the woman on the second day of admission to hospital, and the child was treated at home, but passed away in February, 1943. Measles was practically absent during the year, only 3 cases being notified, but there were 135 in 1941. Whooping cough was not very prevalent, only 28 cases being notified, less than half the number in 1941. Two cases were aged under 1 year, 13 at 1 - 5 years and the same number at school age. Two deaths were certified, one at under a year, and the other at 22 months. One case of puerperal pyrexia was reported, there being 3 in 1941. This is not a disease, but a condition of high temperature in a person recently confined, which may be due to several causes. Puerperal fever is also included under this heading, which is probably the reason that it is still on the notifiable list. A young man was reported with Polio-Myelitis which is commonly known as "infant paralysis". He lived in Gloucester Street and worked in the town. He was admitted to the isolation hospital and treated for some weeks. He was afterwards taken into the Gloucester Infirmary under the specialist. He did no good and after several months he passed away. No source of possible infection could be found. In May there was a small outbreak of food poisoning, 6 persons being attacked with acute enteritis. Three patients resided in a large house, and two in another family. There were several cases in the rural area, on the northern side of the town. All the patients had eaten 'brown' which was made in the town. Specimens of the brown were sent to the County bacteriologist, as also of the brand used in the treatment. Organisms were found in both which might cause illness, according to the bacteriologist, but the results were not very conclusive. The firm shortly after gave up the making of brown owing to their not being in favour of new regulations made by the Ministry. In July another case of food poisoning was notified, the cause being suggested as the eating of retained 'fresh' eggs from a local shop. The illness was reported following the consumption of eggs from this or any other shop. All the notified cases made a good recovery, and this includes a number who lived in a local borough. Several visits were paid to the factory and to the affected households. The outbreak was reported to the south-western branch of the Ministry of Health.



### TUBERCULOSIS.

Altogether six cases of this disease were reported but 2 of them had been treated before coming to the place. Of lung cases there were two cases notified for the first time, a man aged 55 and a girl of 18 years. The girl was very ill and died in July. One man was in the army and was discharged after treatment, his wife being evacuated here. The other imported case was a woman aged 21 who came from South Wales. A boy aged 6 years died at the hospital from secondary meningitis, and another boy, aged 8 years, had the disease in his neck glands. The glands were extirpated at hospital and the boy returned to school in good health. One patient only was treated at Standish House. On the register there are now 101 cases, and this includes 67 lung cases, and 34 of disease in other parts. The record is kept up to date as much as possible, but the chances are that many patients have left the district, or are cured, without it being known to the tubercular department of the County.

### JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

There were 58 patients treated at the hospital, including 36 cases of scarlet fever, 21 coming from this town. Including carriers, 17 diphtheria patients were admitted, 13 from the urban area. Three erysipelas cases were admitted, all from this district. A case of poliomyelitis was treated for some time, also from this area. This patient was afterwards sent on to Gloucester Infirmary, under the county specialist, where the case after several months' treatment proved fatal.

### HEALTH SERVICES.

There is little change in the various health services and hospitals in the district. The sick bay in the town treats a large number of patients each year, including many cases of scabies, who are not evacuees. One or two children evacuees hospitals have been started in the town, and at the Querns, and a day nursery in the bye-pass road for the young children of women working at factories. Arrangements have now been made for the establishing of a clinic for venereal diseases at the memorial hospital.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

The Bauntun Water Works are turning out a very large supply and several samples have been sent periodically for examination. All the samples were very good. Ten new connections were made to the supply. Four samples were taken from private wells, all were found unfit for human consumption, and the town supply was laid on. The backing up of the sewage in the Waterman area, again occurred on occasion. It is hoped to have a new scheme after the war.

### STREAMS.

The periodic inspections of the streams in the area, including the northern branch of the striding Thames, were carried out, and no pollution was detected.

### REFUSE REMOVAL.

Domestic refuse was as in former years removed twice a week to the refuse tip in the Fosse Way. There was an increased amount of salvage collected in paper, rags, flattened tins and rubber scrap, and less metal and kitchen waste. No complaints were received about the tip being a nuisance, which is very satisfactory.

## SALVAGE COLLECTED.

	1941		1942	
	Tons	Cwts.	Tons	Cwts.
Bones .....	6 $\frac{1}{2}$		6	3
Paper .....	132		170	
Rags .....	2		8	
Kitchen waste (Pig food) ..	194		159	
Metal .....	97		40 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Flattened tins .....			140 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Waste Rubber .....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$		7	

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS.

(a) Inspections made under Public Health Act	540
(b) Nuisances discovered or reported .....	60
Spring only .....	2
(c) Complaints received .....	73
(d) Informal or preliminary notices sent ...	47
(e) Statutory notices sent .....	-
(f) Nuisances abated .....	60
(g) Summonses issued .....	-
(h) Convictions obtained .....	-

Under the Public Health Acts, 540 inspections were made, and 60 nuisances reported to the council. Complaints received were 73, and connected with these 47 informal notices were sent out, 60 nuisances being abated. No statutory notices, or legal proceedings were found necessary.

## SHOPS ACT.

17 inspections were made under this Act, but no action was found necessary, although certain workshops were lime washed.

## FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Under these Acts 35 inspections were made, the only action necessary being the provision of ventilation near cut offices in one instance. The bakehouses were all visited on several occasions and the necessary lime washing done.

## FOOD PREMISES.

There were 42 visits paid to the 17 shops on the register, and in 5 instances certain cleansing of the premises was carried out. Two applications for registration were refused owing to the places not being suitable.

## COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

The 12 cowsheds and dairies were visited on several occasions, and limewashing and removal of manure from the vicinity of the sheds, were ordered in certain cases. There were visits paid to the 8 milk shops and also to the pasteurising plant. Twenty milk samples were sent for bacteriological count, and 17 were unsatisfactory. After certain improvements further samples were found to be normal.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Twelve smoke observations were taken from a chimney to a factory in the centre of the town, and one was giving out more black

smoke than is allowable. This was attributed to the poor fuel that was used, and the chimney was raised 10 or 12 feet and the firm supplying the poor fuel were asked to try and improve it.

#### VERMIN INFESTATION.

In 2 premises, a private house, and a hostel for farm workers, complaints of infesting by bugs or lice were reported, and dealt with by fumigation.

#### CAMPING SITES.

The occupier of a trailer caravan at Stratton was given a license but no new or council housing estate was not granted.

#### HOUSING ACTS.

No inspections were carried out under the Housing Acts, defects being dealt with under the Public Health Acts. Under the latter repairs were done to 40 houses. There are no details of overcrowding inspections.

#### MEAT INSPECTION.

Three slaughter houses were registered, 2 being used by the Ministry of Food and the third kept for a reserve.

Animals slaughtered :-

Beasts .....	1,661
Calves .....	1,217
Pigs .....	18,227
Sheep .....	7,916

Compared with 1941, more than twice as many calves, but many less of the other animals were killed, pigs being down from 42 thousand to 18 thousand.

Condemned Meat :-	Beasts and Offal	23
	Pigs and Offal	26
	Sheep and Offal	13
	Total weight	20 tons 4 cwt.

Seven boxes of fish, weighing 5 cwt. were condemned, also 2,000 tins of meat, fish, fruit and vegetables. 105 tins of corned beef, weighing 630 lbs.

